

Frederick County Ethics Commission
Minutes for the Public Meeting of Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Present: Karl W. Bickel, Chair
Paula C. Bell, Commission Member
Hayden B. Duke, Commission Member
E. Donald Foster, Alternate Commission Member
Linda B. Thall, Senior Assistant County Attorney

The Frederick County Ethics Commission met at approximately 7:45 p.m. on April 25, 2012, at the Office of the County Attorney on the 2nd floor of Winchester Hall, 12 East Church Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701, following an administrative function meeting.

Approval of the January 23, 2012 meeting minutes – A draft of the minutes was emailed to the Commission members prior to the meeting. There were no requests for changes.

MOTION: Mr. Bickel made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Bell seconded the motion, which was approved with three votes in favor of the motion. Mr. Duke abstained from voting as he did not attend the January 23 meeting.

Lobbying update – The Commission was advised that all of the Lobbying Activity Reports due on January 31, 2012 were filed. The summary reports of spending required by the Ordinance were completed and are available to the public on the Ethics Commission's website.

Financial disclosure filing update – Annual financial disclosure statements are due on April 30. Once all statements have been received, they will be provided to the members of the Ethics Commission for their review and approval. The Commission noted that the Ethics Ordinance allows the Commission to assess late fees against those officials and employees who fail to file by April 30.

Public Ethics Law report – The 2011 report on the Public Ethics Law, which was prepared by the Office of the County Manager, was distributed to the members. The report is available to the public on the County's website.

Changes to the Commission's Standard Operating Procedures – The Commission agreed to defer work on the revisions to the Commission's Standard Operating Procedures until the recently appointed members take office.

Orientation for new Commission members – The Commission members agreed that the Commission Chair and the Senior Assistant County Attorney should provide a briefing for the new Commission members.

Selection of next meeting date – The Commission members agreed that with the increase in the size of the Commission, the Commission should establish a regular meeting date. In order to accommodate the new members, the Commission agreed to defer the discussion until the next meeting of the Commission, which will be held on Monday, June 11, 2012. The two members who take office on May 1, 2012 and the additional member appointed to a term beginning on July 1, 2012, will be invited to the next meeting.

Adjournment

MOTION: Mr. Foster moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Bell seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

The Ethics Commission adjourned its meeting at 8:20 p.m.

/s/
Linda B. Thall, Senior Assistant County Attorney